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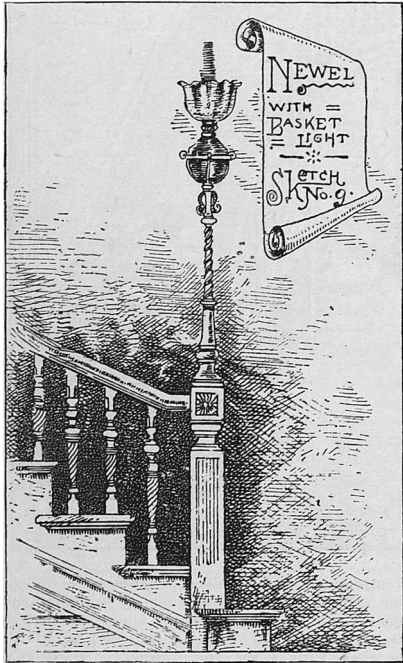
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way complete from wall to baluster, and the less of the border showing the more correct the style.

When a stairway is narrow, and a few inches more room desirable, the wooden baluster rails may be removed and their place supplied with a light iron work balustrade, the lower part being level with each stair, quite a little space may be gained, and the arrangement considerably widens the stairway, and in some cases very much enhances its appearance.

Much more may be written and said on this subject than there is either time or space for here,



but the hope is that enough has been suggested to be of use to those who may be considering the remodeling or decorating of that important and oftentimes much neglected feature of the house, the staircase.

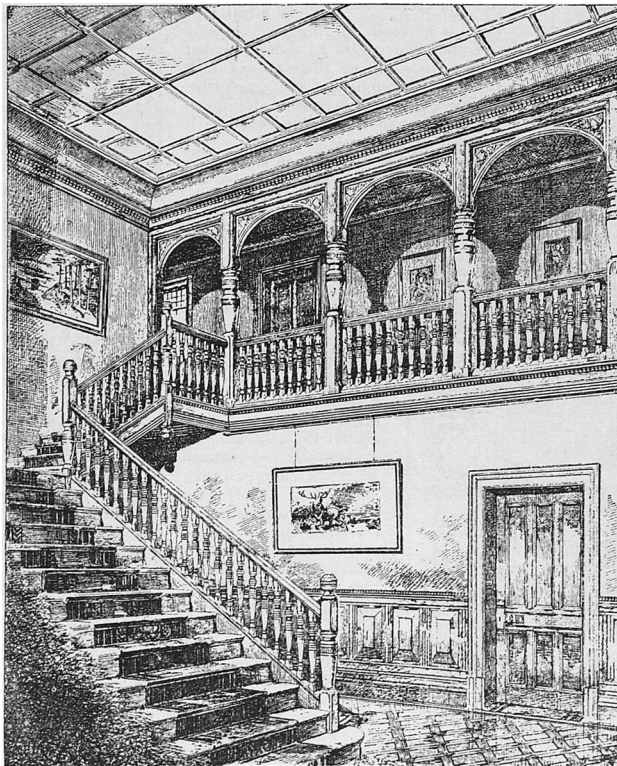
#### ART IN IRELAND.

AT the banquet given by his Worship the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Holder), at the Town Hall on Saturday, August 23, 1884, to the presidents of royal societies, the artists and others engaged in arranging the autumn exhibition of pictures in the Walker Art Gallery, Sir Thomas Jones, the president of the Royal Hibernian Academy, in replying to the toast of the evening, said: "On the part of the presidents of the royal societies and all the artists who had been engaged in arranging the autumn exhibition of pictures, he felt that he was only giving words to the thoughts of these gentlemen in thanking the Mayor most sincerely for his splendid hospitality and for the kind terms in which the toast had been proposed. When he looked round him at that table and saw on each side artists whose names were familiar as household words, and who represented there artist associations of the capital whose fame is world wide and whose art was appreciated everywhere, he asked himself who was he that he should be called upon to respond for these societies. For himself he stood there as president of the Royal Academy of the sister kingdom—(loud applause)—a body of artists who, with the exception of some four or five who in 'your capital have found the fame their shores refused,' he might say were unknown in this country—(no, no)—and, he regretted to say, little appreciated in their own. (Laughter and 'No.') And that, he made bold to say, not from any remarkable shortcoming on the part of the artists, but from the almost utter want of sympathy for art in the Irish people. In no part of the history of Ireland had art or artists taken a prominent place, and though

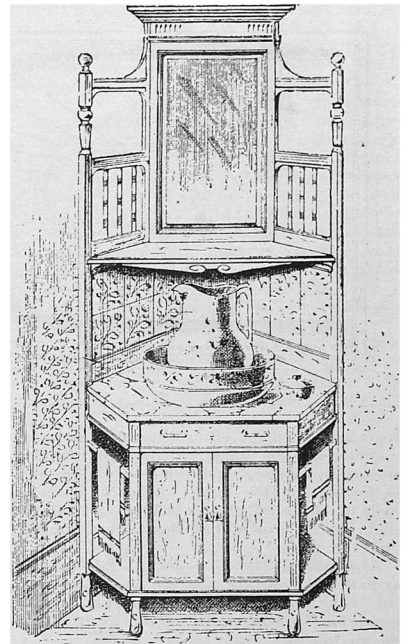
there seemed to be a greater appreciation growing up, it was a very tender plant, and hardly over ground. It was considered that the man who was spending his powers on art was wasting time and energy which might have been better employed in hunting, fishing, fowling, or fighting. (Laughter.) There was a certain taste for art amongst them, if it could be called by such a title, and consisted of a desire to purchase what were known as family pictures. They must, however, fulfill certain conditions. They must not cost more than £6 (laughter)—they must be very old and very black, and must have the names of some of the old masters upon the frames. (Laughter and applause.) He could not understand how this taste had arisen, unless it was that these gruesome old pictures gave a sort of ancestral air to the room which they disfigured. (Hear, hear.) This taste was very common amongst the better classes, and he was of opinion that if they ever had any feeling for art in Ireland it would come from the lower strata. In their annual exhibition they had tried to do what no other academy had done, they had opened their exhibition at night for one penny. It brought a crowd of people who not only took an interest in the pictures, but, he could assure them, some of the remarks and criticisms then made were well worth recording, and by many of them he had profited himself. (Hear, hear.) That annual exhibition was the only opportunity their artists had of coming face to face with the public. If they were successful, well and good; if not, they had to wait a better opportunity. Therefore, they could imagine with what pleasurable feelings they received the generous offer of the Liverpool Committee to aid in the opening of that extension of the Walker Art Gallery, and offering at the same time such munificent terms, not the least of their privileges being that of allowing them a sort of "happy despatch," in letting them "hang themselves," and only those who had to do with pictures knew what a privilege that was. (Applause.) In all that he had said he had no intention to raise a joke at the expense of his country, but merely with the desire to show what kind of a public they had to deal with and with the view of lightening criticism and softening the asperity of hostile comment. —*Liverpool Mercury.*

STAINS on marble may be removed by making a paste of soda, whiting and pumice stone, and rubbing it upon the stain with a rag.

ELECTRIC light affects the color of cloths and paintings in the same way as does the sun, but not so quickly.



NO. 4.—A MODERN ENGLISH STAIRWAY. FROM THE "BRITISH ARCHITECT."



COMBINATION BEDROOM FURNITURE.

IN some houses there are rooms, destined, we presume, for bedrooms, but which are so small that it is almost impossible to place within them any other article of furniture than a bedstead. As a bedstead is insufficient in itself to make a comfortable bedroom, the question arises, how can we get over the difficulty thus presented? The answer is, by having recourse to corner combination furniture, and it is to us a matter of surprise that there is not more of such furniture in the market, considering the large number of existing bijou bedrooms.

Our illustration gives the front view of an article of furniture destined to fulfill the combined purposes of washing table, dressing table, pedestal, and towel-rack. The lower portion is arranged for a washstand with marble top and tile back, beneath the slab is a drawer, and beneath that comes the cupboard in lieu of pedestal; at the sides are two recesses fitted with towel rails. Above the table is a shelf for brush, comb, etc., and an angular cupboard for toilet necessities, the door of which is fitted with a beveled mirror, making the whole complete.—*London Furniture Gazette.*

A FOOT REST, recently improved by a woman, Mrs. C. E. Staniels, of New Hampshire, is to be commended for the ingenuity of arrangement which secures comfort and convenience. The article is capable of being folded into a very small compass and hung up when not in use. It is formed of a lapboard and a foot-board, the soles of the feet resting against the latter in an outward instead of a downward direction. It is unlike the camp chair in being supported on two feet, and in the parts being placed obliquely instead of occupying horizontal and vertical planes. By this means, as also by little rubber pads beneath the feet, it is kept from slipping. When used with a rocker it moves with every movement of the body. The different feeling of repose which this addition affords is surprising in a first experiment of its use; and for invalids and all persons requiring as complete rest as can be afforded it seems very greatly an advantage. It will probably meet appreciation as offering opportunities for decoration. Some of those shown are painted on the wood; others are upholstered with painted or embroidered material.

CEMENT for porcelain and china. —Make a paste of fresh cheese mixed with silicate of potassa, or the white of an egg mixed with powdered lime. Apply immediately.